

Concl. Sub E4
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PATENT

Docket No. 1232-4252US1

in said memory means.

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in the application. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Shimizu '374 in view of Iwasaki. Claims 6-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Shimizu '374 in view of Iwasaki in view of Shimizu '074. Claims 9-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Shimizu '374 in view of Faltermeier. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Shimizu '374 in view of Faltermeier in view of Arai.

The invention as recited in independent claims 1, 3, 6 and 9 is characterized as follows. The image sensing apparatus has a zone selecting means for selecting any zone on the image sensing plane in which an optimum exposure control state is desired to be obtained. Then, exposure detection is performed automatically for detecting exposure conditions. Next, an exposure control is performed automatically for controlling exposure based upon the detected exposure condition by the exposure control means. The memory means then stores control parameters outputted by the exposure control means. The control parameters are stored in the memory means when an exposure control processing by the exposure control means is completed and an optimum exposure control state is obtained. Thereafter, a control means controls the exposure control means to fix an exposure control state to the optimum exposure control state by using the control parameters stored in the memory means.

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While there is a relation between the coefficient K and the luminance level in Shimizu '374, the coefficient K is not the optimum exposure control parameters within the meaning of claims 1, 3, 6 and 9. In Shimizu '374, the luminance level and the reference level modulation coefficient K have been pre-stored in the ROM 16. The coefficient K is merely used to obtain the reference signal corresponding to the output level of the circuit 15.

In Shimizu '374, a plurality of the coefficient K are pre-stored in ROM 16 and are used to obtain the reference signal corresponding to the output level of the circuit 15. The coefficient K is not outputted by the exposure control means, and it is not stored into the memory means when exposure control processing is completed and when an optimum exposure control state is obtained as required by independent claims 1, 3, 6 and 9.

None of the other references cited by the Examiner teaches a means for storing control parameters outputted by said exposure control means, and the control parameters are being stored in the memory means when an exposure control processing by said exposure control means is completed and an optimum exposure control state is obtained. Further, none of the references teaches a control means for controlling said exposure control means to fix an exposure control state to the optimum exposure control state by using the control parameters stored in said memory means as required by independent claims 1, 3, 6 and 9.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 through 16, inclusive, now standing in the case meet the statutory standards for novelty, utility and non-obviousness. Consequently, early allowance of claims 1 through 16, inclusive, is earnestly solicited.

PATENTDocket No. 1232-4252US1**CONCLUSION**

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4252US1.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4252US1. A

DUPLICATE COPY OF THIS PAPER IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,

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